

Filed for intro on 02/19/2003  
SENATE BILL 412 By  
Ford J

HOUSE BILL 974  
By Bowers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, relative to essential behavioral health services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-6-103, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated subsections:

(c) By October 1, 2003, the commissioner of mental health and developmental disabilities shall establish by rule procedures and requirements necessary to implement a system for assuring that a continuum of essential behavioral health services and supports shall be made available to those adults, children, and families throughout the state who for any reason are not eligible for behavioral health services through the Medicaid program or any waiver granted under the Medicaid program, specifically including the TennCare program. The continuum of essential behavioral health services and supports shall be consistent with those identified in the annual state plan as required by §33-6-103(b), and they shall be provided to eligible adults, children, and families on an ability-to-pay basis through direct contractual agreements between the department and community mental health centers or other treatment resources.

(d) By October 1, 2003, the commissioner shall establish by rule procedures and requirements necessary to implement a system for assuring that mental health counseling, treatment, and support services shall be available to adults, children, and families throughout the state who are affected by disastrous, catastrophic, or unforeseen events of great misfortune or public loss. The department through direct contractual agreements with community mental health centers or other treatment resources shall develop a statewide system of disaster-related care and support services for adults, children, and families who are victims of such events. Such contractual agreements shall support the provision of disaster-related care for all citizens throughout the state on an ability-to-pay basis.

(e) The commissioner shall annually specify by contract with providers the citizens throughout the state who shall be eligible for behavioral health services and supports pursuant to the provisions of this section and the level of funding for such services and supports set by the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. For purposes of rule promulgation, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect on October 1, 2003.